



TIPS FOR WRITING A STORY THAT SINGS

1 START WITH A MAP

Write down a main idea or theme in the middle of a sheet of paper or notebook page. Then make bubbles with corresponding images or scriptures that you intend to use to help further your main idea. Allow yourself to brainstorm freely. Then look at your bubbles and see how you might group them together. Use the ideas on your map to help you start writing.

2 CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE

Who are you writing this piece for? Readers are drawn to honesty and authenticity. Think about how you can relate your own experiences, anecdotes and story to make your point and connect with your reader.

3 HOOK YOUR READER

Write a short, vivid "lede" that will draw in your reader and quickly communicate your theme or main idea. A sentence or two can hook someone and make them want to keep reading.

4 KEEP PARAGRAPHS SHORT

Try to include 2-3 sentences per paragraph on average. Move on when you are starting a new idea or a new point. Shorter paragraphs invite readers to engage. When readers see a long block of text, they may move onto something else because of limited time, etc.

5 TAKE YOUR READER THERE

Include description and details that will help you see, feel, touch, hear, and taste the scene. It doesn't need to be long, but this draws your reader into the story. Make it memorable.

6 INCLUDE A TAKEAWAY

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7 MAKE A FINAL IMPRESSION

Take some time to think about how you can make a lasting impression with your final paragraph. You might use an anecdote, personal story, bible verse or return to your opening image as a way to frame your blog. Avoid abrupt endings.

8 GET RID OF CLUTTER

Examine every word. Does it serve a purpose? Can you say it in a shorter, more direct way. Simplify. Proofread. Edit.

TWO OF MY FAVORITE WRITING BOOKS:

- *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser
- *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott

LET'S CONNECT!

Feel free to email me at dorina@dorinagilmore.com if you have more questions about writing or taking your story from your heart to publication.

